

Having, thus, described the invention, what is claimed is:

1       1. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for rotatable  
2       placement on the base unit;  
3       said base unit comprising  
4            a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section;  
5            a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;  
6            a control unit disposed in the housing;  
7            a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the  
8       control unit;  
9            at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing; and  
10       an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;  
11       said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body and a cover  
12       comprising a valve, said cover being sealably attachable to said main body.

1       2. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a  
2       storage section formed therein, and a hinged cover over said storage section.

1       3. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cradle section of the  
2       housing has at least one arcuate cutout formed therein to allow a user to insert a hand  
3       below a portion of said canister as it rests on said cradle section.

1       4. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said canister cover comprises  
2       a valve and handle assembly which allows air to enter said canister in an open position  
3       thereof.

1       5. The food treatment apparatus of claim 4, wherein said valve and handle  
2       assembly comprises a ball valve which is operatively connected to a handle, wherein  
3       pivoting movement of said handle causes corresponding responsive movement of said  
4       ball valve.

1       6. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said main body of said  
2       canister is translucent.

1       7. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the main canister body has a  
2       plurality of grooves formed in a side thereof, said grooves being alignable with rollers of  
3       said base unit.

1       8. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a vacuum line with  
2       a built-in fluid trap for interconnecting said base unit to said canister, wherein said  
3       vacuum line comprises a connection fitting for inserting into an opening in said canister  
4       valve, wherein said connection fitting has at least two O-ring seals thereon.

1       9. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises four  
2       rollers, at least one of which is driven by said motor.

1           10. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises a  
2           raised grid having air inlet slots formed therein.

1           11. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for  
2           rotatable placement on the base unit;  
3           said base unit comprising  
4           a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section, the  
5           housing having at least one vent opening formed therein;  
6           a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;  
7           a control unit disposed in the housing;  
8           a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the  
9           control unit; and  
10           at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing, and  
11           an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;  
12           said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body which is  
13           substantially translucent, and a cover comprising a valve, said cover being  
14           sealably attachable to said main body.

1           12. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises  
2           a storage section formed therein, and a hinged cover over said storage section.

1           13. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cradle section of the  
2           housing has at least one arcuate cutout formed therein to allow a user to insert a hand

3 below a portion of said canister as it rests on said cradle section.

1           14. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein said canister cover  
2           comprises a valve and handle assembly which allows air to enter said canister in an open  
3           position thereof.

1           15. The food treatment apparatus of claim 14, wherein said valve and handle  
2           assembly comprises a ball valve which is operatively connected to a handle, wherein  
3           pivoting movement of said handle causes corresponding responsive movement of said  
4           ball valve.

1           16. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein the main canister body has  
2           a plurality of grooves formed in a side thereof, said grooves being alignable with the  
3           rollers of said base unit.

1           17. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a vacuum line  
2           with a built-in fluid trap for interconnecting said base unit to said canister, wherein said  
3           vacuum line comprises a connection fitting for inserting into an opening in said canister  
4           valve, wherein said connection fitting has at least two O-ring seals thereon.

18. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises four  
rollers, at least one of which is driven by said motor.

1       19. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for  
2       rotatable placement on the base unit;  
3       said base unit comprising  
4            a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section;  
5            a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;  
6            a control unit disposed in the housing;  
7            a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the  
8       control unit;  
9            at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing; and  
10      an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;  
11      said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body and a cover  
12      comprising a valve, said cover being sealably attachable to said main body,  
13      wherein the main canister body has a plurality of grooves formed in a side  
14      thereof, said grooves being alignable with the rollers of said base unit..